

11        a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal strength  
12    indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit, and the decoder circuit;  
13        wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-energize the  
14    receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier with a carrier detect false  
15    rate, based, at least in part, on the power in the channel, and to determine an  
16    acceptable signal quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part,  
17    on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit.

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1        9. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 8, wherein the microprocessor is  
2    operable to energize the receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the  
3    carrier is determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the energized  
4    state until a determination is made as to whether acceptable signal quality has  
5    been obtained.

1        10. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 9, wherein the microprocessor is  
2    operable to de-energize the receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be  
3    present, without performing a signal quality determination.

1        11. (New) The battery-powered radio of Claim 10, further comprising:  
2        a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;  
3        an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and  
4        a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.